

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 5A

WASHINGTON TIMES
13 June 1984

Shultz hails improved U.S. status

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Secretary of State George Shultz, contending Nicaragua's involvement in the supply of arms to Salvadoran rebels is "so obvious and clear," rejected yesterday a former CIA agent's claim that Managua no longer supplies the insurgents.

In an appearance before an Overseas Writers meeting, Mr. Shultz suggested former CIA analyst David MacMichael "must be living in some other world" because proof of Nicaraguan activity is "just overwhelming."

Mr. MacMichael asserted in an interview with The Associated Press that evidence of Nicaraguan involvement in moving arms into El Salvador "just disappeared" after the spring of 1981.

Speaking about a probe of possible Bulgarian origins to the effort to kill Pope John Paul II, the secretary said it was "horrible" to think that a state might be behind the attempt but added it was too early to accuse anybody of anything.

In responding to questions from

reporters, Mr. Shultz contended the U.S. global position improved in the past three years, but he also said he was disappointed by Mideast peace efforts and U.S. relations with Moscow.

On the Middle East, he said, "We haven't made headway in the peace

The secretary minimized the likelihood of President Reagan meeting Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

process I'm sorry to say. And Lebanon has not developed in the way we would have chosen."

As for hardened Soviet-American relations, Mr. Shultz observed, "They are certainly not the kind of warm and close rela-

tions that one would like to have with a major power."

Noting what he described as a Soviet decision to chill relations with the United States, the secretary minimized the likelihood of President Reagan meeting Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko before completing his first term.

The secretary of state also doubted the wisdom of a suggestion by GOP Sens. Howard Baker and Charles Percy that the United States should propose regular summit meetings with the leaders of the Soviet Union.

Soviets are unwilling to meet at that level, he said. He added "they've chopped things down right and left" in such areas as arms control talks while continuing to negotiate issues like an improved Washington-Moscow hot line.

The administration wants thoroughly prepared summit sessions that are likely to produce a predictable result. It contends more informal meetings raise public expectations that cannot be met.

— Alan McConagha